



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY STRIPES

March 22, 2007

The STRIPES Communiqué is one of the many ways you will receive information and progress updates about the STRIPES Project. If you did not receive this communiqué via e-mail and would like to be added to the STRIPES mailing list, send an e-mail to STRIPES@hq.doe.gov with the word “subscribe” in the subject line.

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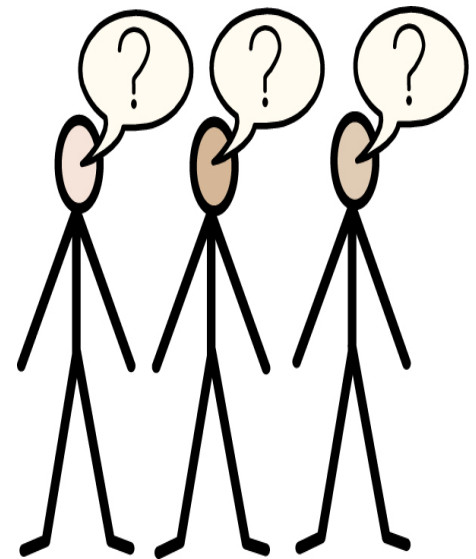
1. Since You Asked... STRIPES Answers Your Questions
2. Policy Corner: A new section from DOE Policy

STRIPES Team has successful outreach

The STRIPES Team has had a chance to meet face-to-face with nearly 80% of the DOE acquisition workforce. Also, the team is increasing its joint efforts with the DOE Office of Procurement and Assistance Policy. Other partnerships and cross-collaborations include regular interaction with legal, financial and budget representatives. These relationships provide the STRIPES Team with useful insight as we configure the software and continue to make sound business decisions.

Since You Asked...

We have gotten many good questions from many sources, particularly from future users. Most of the time the STRIPES team has the answer; other times, the team is still working toward the best available solution. The questions below kick-off our regular responses to your inquiries across the STRIPES community. We're sure the complexity of the questions will increase as the project continues to mature. STRIPES looks forward to continuing to hear from you to ensure your perspectives are taken into account.



Question #1: Will STRIPES be used for M&O contracts?

STRIPES: Yes. STRIPES will be used for M&O contracts. STRIPES will be used for planning, generating, evaluating and administering all types of acquisition contracts including interagency agreements, blanket purchase agreements, purchase orders, task orders, etc. However, this system will not be used for classified contracts.

Question #2: What in the system makes FAR and DEAR research easier? And how will it be maintained?

STRIPES: Both the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) and the Department of Energy Acquisition Regulations (DEAR) are electronically uploaded in the STRIPES software. As a result, it will be easy for contracting professionals to conduct FAR and DEAR clause research within STRIPES through live links and search functions. STRIPES maintains the accuracy of clauses through electronic clause updates. These updates are provided within 1 month of the release of a FAR or DEAR update.

Question #3: Since STRIPES is data driven, will I still have to complete FPDS-NG fields?

STRIPES: One of the key benefits of STRIPES is improved accuracy of data within the system and to reporting systems. The software achieves data accuracy primarily through “data capturing”. Data capturing is when information is entered in a specific field, STRIPES will grab that data and display that same data wherever that field appears within STRIPES. One example is the Period of Performance date. When a STRIPES User enters that date, it can be carried over from the Solicitation to the Contract to ensure accuracy. So, you may be wondering how this pertains to FPDS-NG...

Once data is entered in STRIPES, the relevant data that STRIPES retains will also be shared in FPDS-NG. So, when generating a document, those data points are also carried over into FPDS-NG. What is important to emphasize is the amount of FPDS-NG data that is carried over is determined by the document type generated. Also, FPDS-NG has additional required fields that are not used in STRIPES such as the National Interest Action Field. To summarize, STRIPES will feed a good portion of the data to FPDS-NG, but FPDS-NG will have additional fields that will still need to be completed in that system. More detailed information on the interaction between STRIPES and FPDS-NG will be provided in training.

Question #4: What is the status of DOE getting OMB approval to use STRIPES for Financial Assistance?

STRIPES: To date, STRIPES is approved for the use of acquisition activities only. It is important to know that the STRIPES COTS acquisition solution has the capacity and functionality to also support Financial Assistance. Under OMB’s direction for the Grants Management Line of Business (GMLoB), Federal Agencies must gain approval from OMB before expending funds on a grant writing or grant generating system that is not one of the designated GMLoB providers. The GMLoB was established to provide more collaboration across Agencies with similar Financial Assistance requirements and goals. DOE and STRIPES have met with various Agencies to explore potential collaborations. After many exploratory meetings with other Agencies, DOE recognizes that the implementation of the STRIPES COTS solution for Financial Assistance would be the most efficient system to meet the wide range of DOE’s activities. STRIPES Project Manager, Douglas Baptist, has received solid support across DOE from future STRIPES users, Procurement Directors, and the DOE CIO to use STRIPES for Financial Assistance. In a unified effort, DOE is formally requesting OMB to allow STRIPES to be the DOE system solution for Financial Assistance (in addition to acquisition). The STRIPES project team will keep you informed on OMB’s final decision.

Policy Corner

This is a new section for updates and insights from the DOE Office of Procurement and Assistance Policy (Policy). The Policy team is committed to lending expertise and working with STRIPES for a successful implementation. The STRIPES Team warmly welcomes Sandra Cover as a dedicated DOE Policy resource for clause and document template development.

Ms. Cover will oversee the significant task of developing the clause templates that you will use in STRIPES. Sandra brings tremendous experience with her previous participation in large-scale procurement and financial system implementations at other Federal Agencies.

STRIPES Project Information

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